

STAFF NEWS



Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole

Inmates Graduate with Hope



PIA Chief Assistant General Manager Chuck Pattillo describes the significance of this event for participating inmates eager to learn construction skills before they parole.

Legislative Hearings Begin on Comprehensive Prison Reform Proposal

Legislative oversight and budget hearings began this week on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's comprehensive prison reform proposal to confront California's dangerous prison overcrowding crisis and reduce the high recidivism rate.

The plan would add 16,238 beds in state correctional facilities, build 45,000 local jail beds, set aside \$1 billion for 10,000 medical and mental health beds pursuant to the Receiver's plans, enact Jessica's Law, California's new landmark initiative to protect children against sex offenders, creates a sentencing commission, and realigns resources to ensure the worst criminals are not a threat to public safety.

"Public safety is my highest priority and my administration will continue to address California's prison crisis while ensuring that dangerous criminals do not pose a threat to our families or communities," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "After decades of neglect as our state's population has dramatically expanded, our prison system desperately needs to be overhauled. I am looking forward to working

Folsom Inmates Graduate from Carpenter Pre-Apprenticeship Program

CDCR, the Prison Industry Authority (PIA), and the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council announced Feb. 13 the graduation of 24 inmates from the newly established carpentry pre-apprenticeship program that trains inmates in construction skills.

"The implementation of this unique prison pre-apprenticeship carpentry training demonstrates Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's commitment to provide new inmate rehabilitation programs. Enhancing employment skills through this training is an important step for inmates to successfully transition back into society," said CDCR Secretary James Tilton. "Inmates can learn various carpentry skill sets that help prepare them for good-paying jobs upon parole. This is an opportunity for inmates to turn their lives around."

After completion of the training, the first of its type in the nation, paroling inmates will be eligible for placement in a full-scale apprenticeship program, offered through the Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California, which leads to jobs with construction companies that employ organized labor. PIA will pay the initial union dues and provide a full complement of tools to inmates who complete the program and enter Carpenters Local 46.

As part of the new training program called "Career Technical Education-Carpentry," inmates are working in two different areas. The new Modular Building Enterprise,

California State Employees Charitable Campaign a Success

The California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC) wrapped up another successful year for the CDCR headquarters staff.

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Campaign and 830 employees have pledged \$147,300 for 2007.

A thank you "Pizza Party" was held in December.

As in prior years, there were some 121 employees who worked as Key Campaigners, Auditors or Division/Office Coordinators and Division Chair. Dave Armendariz, the Loaned Executive for the last seven years for the Corrections & Rehabilitation Division received a special plaque for his efforts.

Again, the CDCR TEAM and the employees who generously donated will "Make a Difference" in their community this coming year.

The California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC) – formerly known as the United California State Employees Campaign (UCSEC) – was established in 1957 to provide a single charitable fund raising drive in the State community. The



From left to right, CSECC Committee members included Eileen Metzger, Pat Thompson, DAI, Nanci Medellin, EIS, Natalie Famini, OFS, Minnie Kelsch, OBS, Karla Sarron, OFM, Michel Genoveva, LAD.

enabling regulations for the campaign are found in the California Administrative Code. The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, formerly known as the State Board of Control, provides oversight for the CSECC. For more information on this year's campaign for the State employees, please visit the CSECC website: www.csecc.org

Bulldogs Graduate in First at Wasco State Prison

In December, Wasco State Prison, Reception Center (WSP-RC) held a graduation ceremony for its Creative Conflict Management (anger control) class.

This is the first time that CDCR has successfully reached out to the Bulldog population in addressing their group anger control problems through

rehabilitation training. In the past the Bulldogs have been too violent, disruptive and uncooperative to be placed in a collaborative program that included role plays, group discussion, and simulated conflict scenarios. These ten inmates were selected from a list of Bulldog inmates at WSP-RC that maintained a highly volatile past.

This unique effort was introduced by WSP-RC Captain Curtiss Lawless.

"It was an experiment to ascertain if the Bulldog group could benefit from the program and thus provide the Department with a new tool in reducing prison violence," Lawless said. "The Bulldogs went into the program with apprehension and exited the program with a new understanding on resolving conflict."

Coming to a Billboard Near You..



Submissions

Staff News publicize staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov

Kathy Jett Appointed Director of the Division of Addiction and Recovery Services in CDCR

Governor Schwarzenegger announced Feb. 20 the appointment of Kathryn P. Jett as director of the newly re-organized Division of Addiction and Recovery Services within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

"Kathy is the right person at the right time to take on this critical responsibility," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "There is no one more experienced in addiction and recovery services and no one more committed to making substance abuse treatment the cornerstone of our rehabilitation efforts in Corrections. Reducing recidivism is central to our prison reform efforts and chronic substance abuse is a major factor in recidivism."

Jett has served as director of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs since November 2000. She leads the State's efforts to prevent and treat alcohol and other drug problems, managing a state and federal budget of \$600 million and overseeing treatment services for over 225,000 admissions annually. While at ADP, Jett administered the voter approved Proposition 36 program through a

Folsom State Prison Hits 10-Year Milestone with Youth Diversion Program

By LINDA TUCKER

Office Technician, Folsom State Prison

Folsom State Prison celebrated a milestone in the fall when the institution honored the staff and inmate sponsors for 10 years of tireless contributions to their Youth Diversion Program. The event was held in the prison's Visiting Room with approximately 40 invited guests in attendance.

Five agencies (two agencies traveling from the Bay Area) of the 12 participating agencies were also honored for their commitment to the program. A rarity in prison life, three of the original inmate team members and seven of original staff team members are still commit-

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Kathy Jett (l) hit the ground with a press conference on the department's plan for drug and alcohol treatment services. Secretary Tilton (r) expressed his gratitude for Jett's commitment to ensuring the new programs provide measurement of effectiveness.

diverse collaboration of treatment, law enforcement and criminal justice leaders. The program has graduated over 80,000 participants in its first five years. An advocate for drug education and treatment, she spearheaded the California Methamphetamine Initiative. This campaign includes a first ever treatment guide for counselors, public awareness campaigns and private sector support.

"I am honored by this appointment and eager to take a fresh look at offender treatment and community supervision at CDCR," said Jett. "It is well known that in prison treatment for addiction, followed by appropriate treatment in the community reduces recidivism."

Governor Schwarzenegger ordered the Corrections Agency to reorganize the Office of Substance Abuse Programs (OSAP) after a review on the program by Inspector General Matt Cate was highly critical of the management of the program.

Governor Schwarzenegger has made reducing recidivism a major focus of prison reform efforts this year. He directed CDCR to consolidate and elevate addiction and recovery services within the Corrections Agency. OSAP has been renamed the Division of Addiction and Recovery Services and will be elevated within the Corrections Agency to be on par with Institutions and Parole. Jett will work closely with Secretary James Tilton and other Division directors to achieve the Governor's prison reforms this year.

Jett, 53, of Sacramento, brings a unique perspective from her background and experience in both criminal justice and public health.

PIA..(From page one)

housed in a 30,000 square foot facility, provides rehabilitative work assignments for inmates in building modular structures that will be subsequently transported for use at various prisons and juvenile centers throughout the State.

Additionally, inmates are refurbishing and converting the previously vacant Green Valley Fire Camp 12

into a CDCR/PIA Training and Engineering Center. Inmates gain proficiencies in various skill sets including concrete pouring, framing, drywall, taping and texturing, painting, roofing, and finished carpentry skills.

PIA is the State organization that provides productive job assignments for inmates in California's adult cor-

rectional institutions. PIA's products and services are available to governmental entities, including federal, state, and local agencies. PIA operates factories that produce a variety of goods and services including: modular buildings, office furniture, eye glasses, license plates, coffee, shoes, printing services, signs, binders, clothing, and much more.

REFORM..(From page one)

with my partners in the Legislature, crime victims, law enforcement groups and correctional officers to bring lasting change to California's prison system."

"Counties agree that corrections reform only makes sense if the problems of overcrowding and recidivism are addressed holistically – at both the state and local levels. We stand ready to work with the Governor and Legislature in the months ahead as we find solutions that work for all of us," said Frank Bigelow, President of the California State Association of Counties and Madera County Supervisor.

"I am eager to work with the Governor to realize his ambitious vision to keep the worst criminals behind bars while reducing our high recidivism rate. Attention to re-entry, local jails, and local probation departments should reduce the overcrowding problem. This is a great starting point for real reform and change," said Jan Scully, District Attorney of Sacramento County.

Additional Housing

To meet current demands, prepare for growth and provide prisoners and officers with a safer environment, the Governor is proposing \$10.6 billion in bond financing and \$0.3 billion from the General Fund

to expand California's prison and jail capacity by a total of 78,000 beds.

Details include:

- Local jails and juvenile facilities: \$5.5 billion (\$4.4 billion lease revenue bonds, \$1.1 billion in local matching funds).
- Proposal will fund 45,000 local beds and 5,000 juvenile beds.
- Twenty jails are currently under court-ordered population caps and twelve more have self-imposed caps.
- In 2005 alone, 233,388 individuals avoided incarceration or were released early from jail sentences due solely to a lack of jail space.
- California needs to build 40,000 new jail beds by 2050 just to address population growth.

State prisons

\$4.4 billion (\$3.3 billion lease revenue bonds, \$800 million contract authority, \$300 million General Fund).

- Proposal will fund 16,238 new state prison beds on existing sites; 5,000-7,000 beds in new secure re-entry facilities; build a new training facility; and construct a modernized Death Row at San Quentin.
- California's 174,000 prison popu-

lation lives in facilities designed for 100,000, and overcrowding has forced more than 17,000 inmates into gymnasium and classroom housing, a dangerous alternative that puts both offenders and guards in danger. CDCR estimates it needs 50,000 new state prison beds over the next 15 years.

Healthcare facilities—\$1.0 billion(lease-revenue bonds). In order to provide specialized beds and treatment and program space for mental health and medical services as directed by the court-appointed Receiver in *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, the plan sets aside \$1 billion.

In addition, Governor Schwarzenegger proposes placing some low-level and juvenile offenders in county facilities rather than state facilities to allow offenders who pose a minimal public safety risk to serve their sentences closer to their communities and families. This is particularly important for juvenile offenders.

In addition to the \$5.5 billion expansion in county facilities, the Governor's Office will work with local county sheriffs to find solutions to the ongoing operating costs caused by the shift in population.

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Division of Juvenile Justice *Green Sheet*

Diamond in the Rough

By **KARETTE FUSSELL**

LCWS, PIO
Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

In January 2007, Orange County parent Tyrone Bennet met with Ventura County Juvenile Court Judge Manuel J Carvarubious to share the difficulties he and his wife experienced raising their teenaged daughter.

David Finley, Superintendent of Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF), and VYCF's Family Council President Jerry DeVillers as well as advisory council member Darryl Sobelman, Citizen Advisory Council Public Relations were also present at this meeting.

The group talked about the parents' tireless efforts to successfully intervene and solve their then 12-year-old daughter's problems included substance abuse and gang involvement. In turn, the parents met often with school officials, Social Services, Children and Family Services and Juvenile Hall to as their daughter maintained a defiant, self-destructive mindset and appeared to be out-of-control.

Their daughter was eventually incarcerated at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. VYCF is the only maximum security facility in the state of California that houses youthful female offenders.

Bennet stated that for the first time, he and his wife were invited to be a part of their daughter's treatment and recovery instead of being disregarded or blamed. They were initially sent an orientation packet, and then invited to participate in family therapy with their daughter and met with the principal of the school and treatment team, shortly after their daughter's arrival.

The parents joined VYCF's Family Council, a non-profit organization that consists of concerned parents of youths incarcerated at VYCF. They also joined the Citizen's Advisory Council, made up of concerned citizens in the community whose primary goal is to

(Please see Rough, Page 6)

Juvenile Justice Commissioner Sworn In



Askia Abdulmajeed is sworn in as a commissioner on the Juvenile Parole Board by Division of Juvenile Justice Chief Deputy Secretary Bernard Warner.

Knitting Lives Back Together – One Stitch at a Time

By **CATHERINE CONNEALLY-SALAZAR**

Catholic Chaplain
Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

"I like going to knitting class because it takes a lot of things out of my mind, especially negative things. It's something that keeps me calm".....(Mayra)

More than a year ago, I was asked if the young women at the prison would like to learn to knit. A friend had been knitting for many years and wished to share this skill with the girls. Since the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility was on the road to being more "female responsive" in its' approach to treatment programs, it was well received by the administration. The only hurdle was to find the right kind of knitting

needle that didn't pose a big Security risk. We settled on large plastic needles and developed an accountability system for their distribution and use during the one hour weekly knitting session.

"What I like about knitting is I'm learning something new and I'm teaching myself to do something for others".....(Paulina)

My friend had been making scarves at home and she suggested that we might like to do the same and donate them to the homeless on Skid Row in Los Angeles. We started meeting weekly in September and by January we had nine scarves made and my friend and her daughter contributed

(Please see Knit, Page 6)

Rough.*(From page five)*

bring transformation through education. The Family Council and Citizen's Advisory meet monthly and interface with VYCF's administration to brainstorm and come up with innovative ideas to involve parents and the community at large to transform the lives of troubled youth.

Bennet said VYCF gave his daughter the opportunity to change her life for the better.

Through hard work, determination, and participation in treatment and a variety of treatment programs and groups that address issues such as substance abuse, anger management, self-esteem, gang awareness, family reunification and community reintegration, the Bennet's daughter has become a shining star, the proverbial "diamond in the rough". She now has the potential for a better life. She is presently 18 years old and a member

of VYCF's Female Fire Camp, the only crew of youthful female fire fighters in the nation.

Many wards that have been a part of the VYCF's Fire Camp program successfully pursue and obtain fire fighting jobs in the community once paroled. VYCF also offers other innovative vocational opportunities for young females such as their Animal Grooming Program. For a reasonable fee, customers from the community can bring their pets to the facility to have them groomed.

Their daughter is also an active member of Kiwins, a branch of Kiwanis International, a global organization that is "dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time." VYCF Kiwins interface with youthful members of this club in the community.

Following Bennet's presentation,

Judge Carvarubious described VYCF as a "jewel to be modeled and followed" and a resource that is "greatly under used." He commented that he planned to share this information with other Juvenile Court Judges and commended the Bennet's for being assertive and involved, for being parents that did not give up on their daughter and for helping her become the success she is today. Judge Carvarubious also acknowledged the Bennet's tireless and undaunted efforts for not giving up on the system.

VYCF remains committed to continuing to create positive and innovative educational, treatment, and vocational opportunities and programs through community and family involvement to ensure the transformation of the lives of youthful female offenders.

Knit...*(From page five)*

many more. Before we began each session we would pray over the yarn and bless the people who would eventually receive and wear the scarves.

"I come to knitting class because I enjoy making things for those in need".....(Tiffany)

For our next project, we decided to make a baby's blanket that would be raffled off at our special "Get on the Bus" Mother's Day Visit. Each girl knitted individual squares and two girls worked on the border and someone else began sewing the patches together as they were done. One of the girls in the knitting class was also a mother and her two year old daughter won the blanket.

"What I like about the knitting class is a feeling of accomplishment".....(Katina)

This fall we began making bookmarkers to be sold at a Church Boutique. The proceeds from the Boutique go to support various programs that help the needy in the local Community.

As their Chaplain, I love watching the girls come to class and within the course of one hour, begin to learn a skill that they never thought they would learn coming to prison. I love to see the smiles on their faces and the pride they show when they have completed their projects.

Several of the girls have continued their new craft after they were paroled. One girl was able to serve some of her community service hours by making more scarves and finding a homeless shelter in her city to donate them. A second girl was looking forward to going to her local Michael's Craft Store to take more les-

sons so she could knit baby booties for her new nephew.

"When I knit I feel I can be myself and I don't have to put a mask on and hide".....(Jonetta).

My friend states that she likes coming and being with the young women especially now that her two daughters are grown and have left the nest. My friend is also an artist and is looking forward to sharing that talent with the girls in the future.

Creating programs where our youth can be successful is paramount in changing behavior. The lives of the incarcerated change step by step, stitch by stitch through leadership that is visionary and open to new ideas; through the intervention of treatment programs; through the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers.

San Quentin Inmates Graduate as Addiction Counselors

In December, 14 San Quentin State Prison inmates graduated from the Addiction Counselors Training (ACT) at San Quentin. The graduation marked the official launch of the innovative treatment program, which is the first such program nationwide that is staffed entirely by inmate counselors.

The program is the first such program at San Quentin. Inmates who graduated are now certified as professional drug and alcohol counselors.

The project sponsor is Claire-Elizabeth DeSophia, MFT, program and clinical director of the Full Circle Addiction Recovery Services in Berkeley. The program directed an 18-

month curriculum of intensive classes led by volunteer treatment professionals and addiction studies

for certification by the California Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC), DeSophia said.

The graduates will subsequently embark upon a 4000-hour internship within the prison walls enroute to the required CAADAC certification tests. CAADAC's President, Warren Daniels, has volunteered his time to teach a full-day class to the inmates. Daniels and Certification Board member Tom Gorham of Options for Recovery in Berkeley have offered to place the men in jobs all over the state when they are released.



Claire-Elizabeth DeSophia (l), leads off the graduation. The inmate graduates stand behind her.

professors from major colleges and addiction treatment centers around the Bay Area.

These classes of the Addiction Counselors Training program (ACT) were designed to ready the trainees

OH Close YCF Hosts Family Day Event

During the winter, the O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility hosted a Family Day for 36 Incentive Level A wards and 95 of their family members. The evening began with a warm welcome from Superintendent Yvette Marc-Aurele as well as an explanation of the importance of this event. Chinese food was the menu for the evening and the motto was "eat up" and enjoy.

The dinner was a special treat and a change from the usual vending machine food items. Activities during the big event included the DVD "Cars" being played on the big screen, coloring books and art drawing for the young children, and table and card games. Bingo was a big hit with several of the young men and their family members participating in the game.

In addition, door prizes were given out during the evening and there were lots of family photos being taken. Managers and mental health staff of O.H. Close were also in attendance and were on hand to talk to family members and interact with everyone in attendance. Family Day afforded our top programmers an opportunity to share a family dinner and activities outside of the normal visiting hours. Both wards and family enjoyed themselves and thanked the management team for making this happen.

This event was a huge success because everyone worked together toward one common goal—bringing our top programmers and their families together for an evening of fun-filled activities.

Staff News

The Electronic Edition

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REFORM..(From page four)

Jessica's Law Implementation

To protect Californians from sex offenders and implement Jessica's Law, the landmark proposal passed in November, the Governor is proposing \$59 million in the 2006-07 budget and \$178 million in the 2007-08 budget for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to implement Jessica's Law. Details include:

Jessica's Law

CDCR: \$30.4 million in 2006-07 and \$75.6 million in 2007-08, and ongoing, for CDCR to:

- Screen inmates to determine if they should be categorized as Sexually Violent Predators.
- Provide Global Positioning System monitoring for paroled sex offenders.
- Reduce Parole caseloads through additional hires, so that agents can more closely monitor sex offenders.

DMH: \$28.9 million in 2006 and \$53.9 million in 2007-08, and ongoing, for DMH to:

- Provide for an increase in Sexually Violent Predators as patients at state mental hospitals.
- Manage increased Sexually Violent Predator evaluations and court testimony.
- Offset increased administrative costs at Department headquarters and Coalinga State Hospital.
- Make \$500 million in lease revenue bonds available to construct additional mental health facilities.

High Risk Sex Offenders

\$47.2 million in 2007-08 and ongoing funding for CDCR to implement the High Risk Sex Offender Task Force recommendations, including:

- Training for Parole Agents on the Sex Offender Containment Model, risk assessment tools, and polygraph testing.
- HRSO parolee treatment and bi-annual polygraph testing.
- Dedicated Parole Agents for state-wide Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Teams, and staff to liaison with communities and local law enforcement.
- Creation of a Sex Offender Management Board.

Recent Legislation

DOJ: \$767,000 in 2007-08 for the DOJ to enhance the Megan's Law website to include additional information on sex offenders, as mandated by SB 1128 and AB 1849, both signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2006.

Sentencing Commission

Twenty other states have sentencing commissions. California's sentencing commission will evaluate California's sentencing structure to ensure that violent criminals who pose a risk to public safety stay behind bars, while non-violent, non-serious offenders serve appropriate sentences.

Currently, California's determinate sentencing structure requires the majority of serious and violent offenders, including many sex offenders, be released from prison when their set term is served.

Conversely, thousands of low-level offenders are serving lengthy

mandatory sentences, with little opportunity for rehabilitation because overcrowded conditions impede meaningful rehabilitation programming. Specifically, the proposal includes:

- 17-member Commission appointed by the Governor, which will consist of: Four legislators recommended by leadership, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), a state judge and representatives from law enforcement and crime victims groups. Members will serve four-year terms.
- The Commission will solicit feedback and recommend improvements to the State's current sentencing guidelines. It will report its findings to the Legislature annually.
- In addition, the Commission will review any legislation that impacts sentencing and act as the State's research clearinghouse on sentencing policy. In the first year, it will focus on California's parole system.

Parole Reform

California is one of just two states in the country where every offender must serve out a mandatory parole period following their sentence. Instead of focusing on ex-offenders who need the most monitoring and support, the current parole structure requires law enforcement to track everyone who has served time.

The Governor's proposal includes modifying California's parole structure to ensure law enforcement can best supervise those who are at higher risk for committing another crime.

(Please see Reform, Page 9)

FOLSOM..(From page three)

ted to the program; an indication of the true dedication all have to helping today's youth stay out of prison. Thoughts were shared from all who attended on the value of the program and the continuing need for this to be shared throughout the state.

Near the end of the event, everyone in attendance was allowed to share their experiences. One of the original inmates stated that when he joined the program he was uncertain if staff and inmates would be able to work together. This inmate went on to say at the first year anniversary of the program, he had to admit his great pleasure as to how everyone left their personal differences aside to make the program work.

Stan Norman, Primary Sponsor of the group, indicated he has personally witnessed the evolution of each participant. He stated he saw their personal growth happen right before his eyes. An agency, from the Bay Area, indicated they have experienced a 75 percent success rate in their program resulting from their involvement.

It was pointed out this is a bittersweet celebration as all of the participants would be transferring due to the sensitive needs conversion at Folsom State Prison. However, the legacy these men have worked so hard to build over the years will continue on through the new men joining the program and will be taken and further shared at their new institutions.

REFORM..(From page eight)

Anti-Recidivism Programs

The first step in increasing anti-recidivism programs is building facilities to remove beds currently located in prison classrooms, workshops and gyms. The Governor's proposal accomplishes this, and also doubles the amount of funding, from \$52.8 million in 2006 to \$93.3 million in 2007, for drug treatment, counseling, hous-

ing assistance, and other anti-recidivism programs.

The Governor also proposes \$50 million in 2007-08 to improve adult probation services, with a focus on 18-to-25 year olds. This program will be modeled after California's successful Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act program, which helps keep juveniles from committing crimes.



Warden Matt Kramer (r) meets with the Folsom inmates who participate in the program, congratulating them on the program's success.

The program uses staff and inmates to expose youth to the realities of prison life. The program goal is to aid in reducing the number of young people involved in criminal behavior by increasing youth and community awareness and promoting positive alternatives. Young people participating in the program assume the role of an inmate and as such are escorted through various areas of the institution and actually experience prison life. They interact with inmate team

members to openly and directly discuss the negative effects of criminal behavior. School districts, probation departments, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and other concerned groups participate in the program.

The program held its first session in June of 1996 and received the Director's Community Service award that same year. To date, it is estimated that more than 2,400 young people have participated in the program.